

On page 20, after line 8, please insert the following paragraphs:

ag --The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 199 45 648.8 filed September 23, 1999 and International priority document PCT/EP00/09177 filed September 20, 2000.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 19, and replace them with the attached claims 20 - 38.

REMARKS

Claims 20 - 38 are pending in the application.

Appropriate headings have been added to the specification, and claims from the literal translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for Applicant(s)

ROBERT W. BECKER & ASSOCIATES
707 Highway 66 East, Suite B
Tijeras, New Mexico 87059
Telephone: (505) 286-3511
Facsimile: (505) 286-3524

RWB:rac

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In The Specification:**

On page 1, please replace the existing title with the following:

Apparatus Having at Least Two Processing Stations and a Device for [the] Loading and Unloading [Of] Substrates

On page 10 beginning at line 18 and continuing through to page 11, line 2, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

The center points, 40,65 of the circumferential circles 41,66 of the first and second groups of the arrangement 1 are spaced upon the linear conveying device 3 by a distance equal to three times the spacing d between adjacent carriers. The diameters of the two circumferential circles 41 and 66 are the same, and correspond to two times the spacing d between adjacent carriers upon the conveyor belt 13.

On page 12 beginning at line 21 and continuing through to page 13, line 4, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

The linear conveying device [4] 3a has a track or line 14a upon which is disposed a conveyor belt 13a. As described above for the conveyor belt 13 of the first embodiment, the conveyor belt 13a also extends between two reversing ends 15a and 16a of the linear conveying device 3a, and is driven by means of a drive roller 18a at the reversing end 16a by a suitable drive means 19a, such as a controlled servomotor.

On page 16 beginning at line 11 and continuing to line 17, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

--As soon as the loaded carriers 22,24,25 and 27 are disposed upon the circumferential circles 41 or 46, the handling devices 4 and 5 are rotated into the position shown in Figure 1, in which the receivers 42 to 47 are disposed either over the central receiving points 60A to 60C or over the carriers 22 and 24. The same applies for the second group of the arrangement 1, which

comprises the handling device 5, the four processing stations 7A to 7 [C] D, and the conveyor belt 13.

20. An apparatus (2) for loading substrates upon and unloading substrates from at least two processing stations, wherein said apparatus is provided with a conveying device (3) for a linear transport of substrates, and at least one rotatable handling device (4, 5; 4a) for transporting substrates between said conveying device and said processing stations, wherein said conveying device (3) is disposed between said at least two processing stations, and wherein said at least one handling device (4, 5; 4a) is disposed above said conveying device.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein a point of rotation (40, 65; 40a) of said at least one handling device (4, 5; 4a) is disposed upon a central axis (20, 20b, 20a) of said conveying device (3).

22. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said at least one handling device (4, 5; 4a) is provided with receivers (42-47; 400a - 411a) for substrates, and wherein said receivers are disposed upon a circumferential circle (41, 66; 41a).

23. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said receivers are uniformly spaced apart upon said circumferential circle.

24. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said at least one handling device (4, 5; 4a) is provided with radial arms (48-53; 420, 431) and wherein said receivers (42-47; 400a-411a) are disposed on said arms.

25. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said conveying device (3) is provided with a conveyor belt (3).

* For Examiners Reference

26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said conveyor belt (13) extends between a loading station and an unloading station.

27. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said conveyor belt (13) is provided with carriers (21-28; 21a-28a) for substrates.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said carriers are uniformly spaced apart in a direction of movement of said conveyor belt (13).

29. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said carriers (21-28) are disposed on a central axis (20, 20a, 20b) of said conveyor belt (13; 13b).

30. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein respectively at least two of said carriers (21a-28b) are symmetrically disposed relative to a central axis (20a) of said conveyor belt (13a).

31. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein for a loading and unloading of substrates, at least two of said carriers (21-28; 21a-28a) are adapted to be disposed upon said circumferential circle (41, 66; 41a).

32. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein central receiving points (60A-D; 81A-H) of said processing stations (6A-D; 80A-H) are disposed upon said circumferential circle (41; 41a).

33. An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said processing stations are disposed in pairs diametrically across from one another upon said circumferential circle (41, 66; 41a).

34. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the processing stations within said pairs are of the same type.

35. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a common drive means is provided for driving those processing stations (80A-H) that are disposed adjacent one another upon said circumferential circle (41a)

36. An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the number of said receivers (42-47; 400a-411a) of said at least one handling device (4; 4a) corresponds to the number of said carriers (22, 24; 22a, 23a, 26a, 27a) that are disposed upon said circumferential circle (41; 41a) for loading and unloading, and of said processing stations (6A-D; 80A-H).

37. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein during loading and unloading all of said receivers (42-47; 400a-411a) are disposed either over said carriers (22, 24, 25, 27; 22a, 23a, 26a, 27a) on said conveying device (3), or over central receiving points of said processing stations (6A-D, 7A-D; 80A-H).

38. An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a control device is provided for a simultaneous opening and closing of said receivers (42-47; 400a-411a).